

TS APR 16 1978

War was declared on April 6, 1917, and the Wabash Valley responded

World War I Community Affairs File *Clark, Dorothy*



War was declared against Germany on April 6, 1917, and what was to be called World War I involved some four million men. All communities responded with patriotic sermons, rallies and parades.

Clay County staged a gigantic preparedness parade on Tuesday evening, April 17, 1917, and showed their loyalty to the cause.

At 7:40 p.m., Chief Todd of the Fire Department, dressed in his regular army uniform and riding a prancing steed, sounded the bugle call to arms, and the largest demonstration ever held in Clay County (up to that time) started its line of march.

First came "Uncle Sam" and "Miss Indiana" and a living picture of the famous old war painting "The Spirit of '76."

A platoon of police and city officials was followed by the Brazil Concert Band.

Twenty-five U.S. postal employees, captained by Logan McMillan, made a good showing.

A platoon of U.S. Army, Navy and Marines recruiting officers added a military touch to the parade.

Then came the members of Company B, Terre Haute, whose drilling showed the work of months on the Mexican border.

Captain Duddlestone's Company H, Fort Harrison Rifles, including 15 Brazil boys, made a creditable showing.

The famous McKinley Drum Corps of Terre Haute, headed the Spanish-American war veterans. This unit was under the command of Major McAuliffe, under whom a majority of the men served in the Spanish-American war mobilization.

The Brazil Bankers' Association participated after pledging themselves to help the farmers "win the war".

The fourth division swung into view behind the Bowling Green Band.

The Uniform Rank of the Knights of Pythias in their military uniforms, were followed by the B.P.O. Elks, the I.O.O.F. and a delegation of the Syrian colony, subjects of Turkey, who pledged their support to their adopted country, the Catholic school children and the Red Men.

Employees of the Crawford & McCrimmon Machine shops and the Wood Turret Lathe Company marched to show their determination to help defeat the Huns.

The fifth division was composed mostly of students from the various school, the De Pauw Drum Corps, the High School Cadets under the leadership of Prof. Harold Haney, carrying Springfield rifles, the Junior High School Cadets, the city school trustees, school superintendents, principals and faculty.

More than 600 pupils marched in this unit.

The old martial band, headed by A. S. "Dock" Decker, was a noisy combination and their music at the Court House later was a feature of the evening.

The sixth division was headed by Dr. Oliver, assistant marshal.

The Greencastle Colored Drum Corps headed this division, and the marchers carried large banners which read, "We saved the Flag at San Juan Hill".

The last division included the township delegations and citizens marching and carrying flags.

Following the parade a rousing meeting was held at the Clay County Court House with Judge John M. Rawley presiding.

These men wore the familiar old blue uniform of olden days and made an inspiring picture.

The Claude Herbert Camp of Spanish-American veterans also had its own drummers.

Dressed in neat white dresses and costumes of army nurses, the Clay County Chapter of the American Red Cross, under the leadership of Miss Abba Lindsay, made an impressive showing in their soldier-like formations.

They were equipped with ambulances and stretchers and appeared ready for field duty.

Next came the Camp Fire Girls, who made a colorful appearance in Indian costumes.

They were followed by a Boy Scout troop in "rough rider" suits, signal flags, etc.

The G.A.R. veterans and women of the Relief Corps rode in decorated automobiles.

The second division was headed by the Harmony Concert Band.

Then came the Knights Templar unit, the Modern Woodmen, uniform rank, carrying their axes, in natty blue uniforms, and the Women's Clubs affiliated with the Red Cross.

The third division was headed by the Deering Band of Clinton.

The Eagles' Drill Team executed a number of military formations down the line of march.

The Vigo Drum Corps, an organization of small boys under adult leaders, drew loud applause, as did the Knights and Ladies Drill Team, dressed in maroon uniforms trimmed with black.

The Turner Band headed the Beta Phi Sigma, boys of military age, the Kappa Alpha Phi, which had already contributed several of its members to the colors, and the Y.M.I.

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The bands and drum corps created a din while the Red Cross assembled on the steps to form a background of red and white for the speaker's stand.

Assisted by the Brazil Band, Charles J. Kidd led the huge throng in singing.

Rev. Francis gave a fervent prayer for America and its soldier boys.

The main address of the evening, delivered by Archibald Hall, was described as long but interesting.

He pledged his support to the president even though he opposed him politically.

The Harmony Quartette sang patriotic songs, and the Rev. E. Garfield Johnson closed the meeting with a prayer.

The Drum Corps and buglers remained on the streets until early dawn. Many who participated in this great demonstration lie buried in Flanders Field.

Clay County men killed in action were Robert E. Andrew, Elmer P. Blair, Albert Carmichael, Walter W. Carpenter, Aquilla Day, James M. Duncan, Elvin A. Frost, Claude Griffy and Edwin Shonk.

Those who died of wounds were Clifford H. Alsip, Thomas L. Bussing, Fred W. Dierdorf, Edward W. Walton and William G. Widener.

Diseases killed several of the soldiers including Gladys Bandy, William Brown, Clarence Byers, Harry E. Cooksey, John Daugherty, M. Oscar Grigsby, Robert E. Harris, Roy C. Holdefer, James Jenkins, Stanley M. Keith, Jacob Kirchner, Samuel Knipe, Russel McGriff, Roy J. Meyer, Jacob Miller, Harry J. Moore, John Scherb, A. C. Shopmeyer, Farris Smith, A. W. Werremeyer, Harry C. Whaley and John L. Zenor.

The book "Clay County's Answer" contains 900 pictures of those men who enlisted from Clay county in the Great War, 1917-1919.

Visit of the 'Blue Devils' in May 1918 recalled...

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Mrs. Lloyd M. Ruszler, Route 52, the former May Myers, an early graduate of Garfield High School, recently gave five snapshots taken May 31, 1918, the day of the visit of the "Blue Devils," the World War I heroes of France.

Two of her former classmates, "Bucky" Harris and Dwight Spencer, are shown marching in the parade preceding the patriotic rally to sell Liberty Bonds held on the campus of Indiana State Normal School.

A much-decorated combat group on the Western Front, the Blue Devils were a company of French soldiers touring the U.S. to encourage enlistment and the sale of the Fourth Liberty Loan. Their sharp uniforms, the flags flying, and the patriotic fever engendered by martial music and the parade sparked several local enlistments during their one-day visit to the area.

When it became known in Brazil that the French heroes would pass through the city via the Interurban line enroute from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, it was suggested that an effort be made to have the contingent stop for a few minutes in Brazil so the people in Clay County could see this band of men who had covered themselves with glory fighting the Germans during the first days of World War I.

Mayor John J. Jones and George H. James, of the Brazil Daily Times, made every effort to assure the stop in Brazil on Friday morning. By Thursday, everyone was keyed up about the coming event. Friday morning saw the country roads jammed with people hurrying to the county seat, and by eleven o'clock the crowd was wall to wall. Then word came at the last minute that the committee in charge had refused to sanction the Brazil stop and the motorman of the car was instructed to make no stop under any circumstances.

The mayor chewed tobacco and smiled. When the two special cars left Greencastle, Mayor Jones called Fire Chief Edward Boughton, and just as the cars were sighted at Morgan's Crossing the big fire truck "accidentally" stalled on the tracks.

The motorman was compelled to stop the car, and after a heated discussion, consent was given for the Frenchmen to leave the cars. They were seated on motor trucks and driven from Forest Avenue to the Traction station where they began boarding the cars and continued their journey to Terre Haute.

As they passed down National Avenue they were cheered, and a French bugler filled the air with triumphant French bugle calls and the men sang French songs. They were showered with cigarettes and cigars. Not to be outdone, the Frenchmen cut buttons from their coats and passed them out as souvenirs. French flags flew along with the American flags from every business house.

The French soldiers were greeted by several veterans of the Franco-Prussian war, and one veteran of the Crimean War. Several women who had come to this country from France greeted the men with cries of "Vive La France" Mrs. Forneaux found one soldier from her old home town in France and there was a happy reunion.

When the soldiers boarded the cars, some said they had believed all the time that they were in Terre Haute. When some arrived in Terre Haute and took the next car back to Brazil to continue chatting with French and Belgian people, many of them working in the coal mines of the area.

Mayor Jones wanted a large French flag for the city building. Mrs. Valeri Forneaux and Mrs. Reichert got busy with the needles and a few minutes before the soldiers arrived a large French flag flew from the city flag staff.

The white-haired veterans of the Franco-Prussian wore badges, hastily printed and bearing the words "Contre L'Allemande" 1870-71 with miniature American and French flags. These old veterans found much in common with the veterans of the new war against Germany.

Joseph Stiverant in a conversation with one of the soldiers asked how far they expected the Germans to advance. The French hero replied, "We'll whip them. They won't get enough ground to bury their dead bodies."

Which brings to mind Memorial Day on May 30, 1923, when the community project involved decorating the graves of the soldiers who had served their country with bouquets of flowers. Fifty-five years ago, Memorial Day was celebrated with more meaning than another holiday and the Indy 500 Race.

Some 1,200 graves were

decorated in Woodlawn, the city's oldest cemetery still in use, and 800 in Highland Lawn. The committee asked that the public should have flowers at the school houses by 9 a.m. where they would be collected and taken to the cemeteries.

The number of veterans laid to rest in local cemeteries during the past 55 years would bring the total to a staggering number. Remember when each soldier's grave was decorated with a small American flag?

Committees from all the veteran's organizations, the lodges, fraternal orders, and local unions would pass the knowledge of where their members were buried to younger men who in turn would pass the word on to yet another generation.

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Clark, Dorothy

Garfield Review paper covers events of World War I era

1-5-1984

Eight copies of "The Garfield Review," the high school's weekly paper, came to my office. They cover the late 1917 and 1918 days of World War I, the news of students, former students, teachers, and ways the school was helping in the war effort.

The chemistry teacher, Raymond Jared, had left for New York in December 1917, where he had obtained a chemist's position in the government arsenal. Before coming to Garfield, Jared had taught for several years at Jefferson High School in Lafayette. He had taught chemistry for three years at Garfield and was faculty adviser for the "Benedictus" and the school paper. He organized a basketball league for boys and was active in track athletics.

At this stage of World War I, 48 students or former students of Garfield were in service. There were regular Red Cross drives and a Patriotic League for girls and women only had been formed. They sent socks and cheer boxes of candy to the soldiers. The nickel fee for membership paid for the pin.

Captains had been chosen for the Garfield Eastern Conference Basketball League. They were "Bud" Conover, "Ernie" Scott, "Art" Emmitt, "Fritz" Muench, "Art" Wilson, "Les" McPeak, "Duke" Lovell, "Onie" Martin and "El" Bresett.

Only 50 boys were needed as players, but 80 signed up. They were weeded out if they did not weigh 110 pounds. Capt. Emmitt's team won the championship even though he had enlisted in the army.

Mrs. Sankey gave up her classes

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

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Special to The Tribune-Star

for the rest of the term. She found it impossible to keep up with both home and school duties. She was replaced by Miss Marie Latta. It was mentioned that Sankey's departure would mean the loss of her Overland automobile and the increased use of jitneys would cause traffic problems on Maple Avenue.

Principal Records had received a newsy letter from Roy S. Smyres, Garfield grad of 1913, who was in the Belgian Congo, Africa.

The news of Dec. 20 concerned Frank Nitterhouse who was training at Camp Taylor, Ky., with a regiment composed of men from Clay, Vigo, and Sullivan counties. Harry Lawson was at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Graduating seniors in January 1918 were Elward Bresett, Helen Burr, Verna Cook, Gladys Cowan, Elmer Coston, Hazel Dougherty, Josabell Ferguson, Bernice Hammond, Alice Heine, Floyd Hunt, Elsa Iahn, Leslie McPeak, Erma Mewhinney, Herman Mitchell, Fred Muench, Geraldine

Nicholson, Adele Pettyjohn, Harvey Piety, Hubert Reed, Vaughn Russell, John Taylor, Flora Templeton and Arthur Wilson.

The news of the wedding of Miss Landrum, Garfield teacher, and Harry Bunce came as a surprise. She planned to teach until June.

To conserve coal, the school schedule had been changed to what we know as daylight saving time. One day the furnace fan quit and the students wore their coats all morning.

At the tournament games, Rockville came out the winner over Sandborn, Staunton, Farmersburg, Carlisle, Charleston, Brazil, Glenn, Edwardsport, Martinsville, Prairie Creek, Fontanet, Garfield, Wiley, Coalmont and Normal. The Review blamed it on Rockville having a colored trainer who rubbed them down between halves with alcohol, put them up in a hotel and fed them on time.

Miss Hathway left to take a government job in Washington, D.C. Miss Harriet Hebb took over her classes. Mr. Shores announced the birth of his new son, Hubert Arthur.

The advertisers, so necessary for the Review's publishing, included the downtown Greek Candy Kitchen, Arcade Candy Kitchen, Ideal Baking Co. (Holsum Bread), John S. Cox (auto supplies), Brown's Business College, two jewelers and opticians, J.M. Bigwood & Son and R.B. Appel, Summit Sand & Gravel Co., and two drugstores, Harold Crooks at 10th and Lafayette, and Lincoln Place Pharmacy, 13th and Maple.

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Paper of 1918 told of global war

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Underneath the flooring of a house west of Riley known as the Haley Place earlier was found a 1918 newspaper. The badly yellowed sulphite paper was crumbling, but I managed to read the news of 74 years ago.

The banner headlines announced: "Bond Slackers Are Kaiser Backers — Buy Bonds."

The headline told: "Allied Armies Pursue Fleeing Enemy, Germans Leave City of Cambrai Ruined." This was the Terre Haute Star, Friday, Oct. 11, 1918, and it cost two cents.

As late as it was in the war, although the people didn't realize the armistice was so near, 44 more men from Terre Haute were called up to leave Oct. 15 on the Big Four for two Indiana camps — at Warsaw and Rolling Prairie.

The influenza epidemic here was subsiding, and that was good news.

The flu was so bad in Brazil, leaf-burning was stopped for 10 days by the Board of Health. All billiard halls and bowling alleys were closed, along with cigar stores unless they prohibited crowds from playing games and loafing, another move to prevent flu.

On the front page was the news of the "First Bombing Raid Made By Americans." An American bombing expedition consisting of more than 350 machines, dropped 32 tons of explosives on the German cantonments in the area between Waverville and Damvillers, about 12 miles north of Verdun. This happened Oct. 9.

Included in the bombing exploit were more than 200 bomb-

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ing airplanes, 100 pursuit machines and 50 triplanes. One entente plane failed to return. Twelve enemy machines were destroyed. In addition, U.S. airplanes destroyed or brought down five German machines and one balloon. They also took a great number of photos and dropped newspapers to the American troops.

A box advertisement urged readers "to buy only Bayer Aspirin because they were the only product made entirely by native Americans!"

Airmail between New York and Washington, D.C., was new, according to the Postmaster General. He announced they were able to "deliver in spite of rain, storms, etc."

In local news, Charles Stevens, a cigar store owner on South Seventh Street near Wiley High School, was fined \$10 and costs for allowing gambling in his store. Mrs. Beresford complained that her son, Victor, lost money gambling on several occasions.

Charles Batton also was charged with permitting minors

to frequent his poolroom on Wabash Avenue. Ben Bickle was charged with striking Barton Murphy with his auto, but the case was dismissed.

Following a wreck at Ninth and Lafayette, Sam Ruark was charged with speeding after his auto struck Mattie and Herman Wellinger. Judge Shafer had a busy day in court.

Five local births were reported. The Harry A. Floras, 716 S. First, had a boy, Harry Vernon. Paul Richard was born to the Forest R. Bells, 451 N. Sixth. The George E. Hedges, 277 Lafayette Ave., had a baby girl, Edna May. Joel Thomas was born to the Ralph R. Nelsons, 1602 S. 12½ St., and Mr. and Mrs. Tilden S. Heminger, 1649 N. 12th., had a baby boy who was unnamed at press time.

J.B. Walsh operated a shoe store at 420 Wabash Ave. Shatsky Brothers sold clothing for men and boys at 668-670 Wabash. Sherman's Clothes for Men and Young Men was located at 416 Wabash. They sold suits for \$17. The Mammoth Shoe Co., 519 Wabash, offered shoes for the whole family. "Cruiser Gray" boots were featured at \$5.65.

Petersdorf's Women's Apparel was selling dresses down to the boot tops, and coats for \$25 up to \$195. Georgette waists (blouses) cost \$5 in suit colors as well as white and flesh.

The Herz Store advertised \$5,000 worth of furs, including mink scarfs and stoles up to \$300. What a bargain! On the fourth floor, they were selling the new Herz Special wardrobe trunk in all sizes costing up to

\$35 each.

Rosenak's Millinery Shop was having a hat sale — those huge silk, velvet, widebrim, with lots of trimming for \$2.95. Goldberg at 640 Wabash sold ladies and girls clothing. The Root Dry Goods Co. (established 1856) offered high-laced, high-heeled shoes for \$3.95; serge dresses at \$24.75; coffee for 19 cents a pound; and a big sale on sewing machines, even electric, with free lessons and attachments.

The Harvey Furniture Co., 668-670 Wabash, sold retail or wholesale. Their ad offered rugs at prices this writer would love to invest in today.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound was advertised to guarantee to rid the user of back pains. However, a product named "Pepgen" was doing a lot of advertising with photos of happy users in the local community. It was different, no alcohol. Miss Helen Crunk of Clinton, gained six pounds after she began taking it. Mrs. Leona Mattingly, 1901 S. Center St., said her brother-in-law, Irvin Mattingly, a student, cured his indigestion with Pepgen.

Charles Tuell, 2115 Beech St., a moulder at the Standard Wheel works, regained his health. Walter Luther, 1727 N. Fourth St., a coal miner, was cured by this tonic of "highly concentrated fluid derived from vegetable ingredients." What, no herbs?

Pepgen also made a mustard liniment. It could be purchased at The Terminal Pharmacy and in Clinton.

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